



# Best Management Practices for Construction and Development Projects

## Bachman's Sparrow

*Peucaea aestivalis*

**Common name** • Bachman's Sparrow

**Scientific name** • *Peucaea aestivalis*

**Federal status** • None

**State status** • Endangered

### Purpose and Use

The information in this document is to be used to help avoid and minimize species impacts due to construction practices. It is not intended to be used as a guide to manage habitat for a given species. If that is the goal, please contact the Department of Conservation for habitat management information. Because every project and location differs, following the recommendations within this document does not ensure that impacts will not occur to the species and additional information might be required in certain instances. Following the recommendations within this document does not complete Endangered Species Act consultation that may be necessary for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act; please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more information.

### Ecology

Missouri is the northwestern most portion of the Bachman's Sparrow's range. Birds migrate north between mid-March and late April to breed in Missouri. Females will lay as many as three clutches of eggs in one breeding season. Incubation is 12-14 days long, and young leave the nest after only 10 days, before they are able to fly. Bachman's Sparrows forage on the ground for insects and for seeds of herbaceous plants and pines. They typically nest and forage in glades, open pinewoods, and overgrown grassy fields with scattered shrubs and trees.

### Reasons for Decline

Historically, Bachman's Sparrows occupied glades and open pinewoods in many areas in southern Missouri. Their population has declined mainly because of the logging of pine forests in the early 1900s. Succession of savannas and glades to dense, woody areas because of fire suppression and invasion by cedars into glades have also drastically reduced available habitat.

### Specific Recommendations

Bachman's Sparrows frequent areas with a thick herbaceous layer of grasses and sparse woody vegetation. Due to the succession of this type of habitat, which is ephemeral (temporary), potential and existing areas should be protected and managed. A burn or

thinning schedule should be developed to help maintain and create habitat, where desired.

- Development projects should be avoided in core areas of open, mature pine forests; trees should be thinned occasionally to allow for growth of replacement trees.
- Avoid conversion of habitat to other habitats where this species occurs. Minimize development impacts on pine savannas; conduct moderate to heavy thinning of middle-aged pine plantations.
- Conduct prescribed burns no less than every three years in areas of potential Bachman's Sparrow habitat, especially in areas where pine savanna restoration is possible and in glades, to reduce woody vegetation.
- Avoid extensive ground disturbance activities, such as wind rowing and roller chopping.

### General Recommendations

If your project involves the use of Federal Highway Administration transportation funds, these recommendations may not fulfill all contract requirements. Please contact the Missouri Department of Transportation at 573-526-4778 or [www.modot.mo.gov/ehp/index.htm](http://www.modot.mo.gov/ehp/index.htm) for additional information on recommendations.

### Information Contacts

For further information regarding construction projects in glades, pine forests, and fields, contact:

For species information:

[Missouri Department of Conservation](http://www.modot.mo.gov/ehp/index.htm)  
Resource Science Division  
P.O. Box 180  
2901 W. Truman Blvd  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
Telephone: 573/751-4115

For species information and Endangered Species Act Coordination:

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](http://www.fws.gov)  
Ecological Services  
101 Park Deville Drive, Suite A  
Columbia, MO 65203-0007  
Telephone: 573/234-2132

For Clean Water Act Coordination:

[Missouri Department of Natural Resources](http://dnr.mo.gov)  
Water Protection Program

P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176  
Telephone: 573/751-1300, 800/361-4827

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)  
Regulatory Branch  
700 Federal Building  
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896  
Telephone: 816/983-3990

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)  
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division  
901 North 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Telephone: 913/551-7307

## **Disclaimer**

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from state and federal agencies, contractors and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with these Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and state or local laws need to be considered for construction and development projects, and require permits and/or consultation with the appropriate agency. Following the recommendations provided in this document will help reduce and avoid project impacts to the species, but impacts may still occur. Please contact the appropriate agency for further coordination and to complete compliance requirements.